

REMARKS

The Examiner's attention to the present application is noted with appreciation. Claims 1, 14, and 18 have been amended to more completely claim the invention.

In the Office Action dated April 7, 2005, Section 3, The Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 10, 12 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious in view of German Patent No. DE 29816019 U1 by Kraeft.

The Examiner states that Kraeft teaches a skimmer and filter unit comprising a tank portion (12), a skimmer chamber (31) within the tank, an ultraviolet light chamber (50) within the tank portion, a pump chamber within the tank portion (13; Fig. 2), and a filter chamber (21, 23, 24). However, Kraeft teaches an ultraviolet light chamber (50) that is located within a separate tank portion (4), as shown in Fig. 3 of DE 29816019 U1. On page 8, Kraeft teaches a skimming gully (31) and UV chamber inlet (46) within the walls of tank (12). Inlet pipe (46) leads to adjoining but separate UV radiation tank (4) that houses UV treatment chamber (50). Fig. 3 shows inlet (46) connecting tank (12) to tank (4). UV radiation treatment (50) is contained within tank (4) and not within tank (12).

Applicant has amended claim 1 to recite that the UV chamber is in the same tank portion as the skimmer chamber. Accordingly, Applicant's claims 1-13 are believed to be patentable over Kraeft.

The Examiner noted that the "water" language in the preamble failed to add structure to the claim. Claim 1 has been amended to add "water" to claim 1, adding structure to the claim by expressly stating that the use of the unit is with water.

In Section 4 of the Office Action, The Examiner rejected claims 4, 7-8, and 11 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kraeft. We note that these claims all depend from claim 1 which has been amended to recite that the UV light chamber is in the same tank portion as the skimmer chamber. Kraeft, as discussed above, has a separate tank in which the UV light source is dispersed. Accordingly, it is believed that these claims are patentable over Kraeft.

In Section 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 14-18 under U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stefan in view of Sanders. The Examiner states that Stefan, directed toward treating a body of water, does not disclose subjecting the water to ultraviolet light and that Sanders, also directed toward treating a body of water, discloses treating water with ultraviolet radiation (40). The

Examiner stated that it would have been obvious for the skilled artisan to have modified the method of Stefan such that it includes treating water with ultraviolet radiation, as suggested by Sanders.

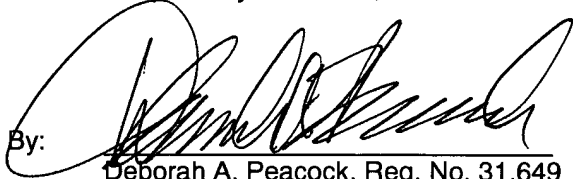
Claims 14 and 18 of the present application have been amended to add the structural limitation that the UV radiation chamber, the skimmer chamber, and the weir opening are located within the same tank.

Sanders is directed toward treating a body of water, and discloses treating water with ultraviolet radiation in a unit (40) separate from the tank portion (10) of the unit. Stefan, also directed toward treating a body of water, does not disclose a UV treatment unit. It would not be obvious to combine these two references. Even if Stefan and Sanders were combined, it would result in a skimming and filtering unit with a UV treatment unit located outside the tank. Thus, it is believed that claims 14-18, as amended, are patentable over Stefan, in view of Sanders.

In Sections 6-7 of the Office Action, The Examiner indicated that claims 5-6 and 9 are allowable (if rewritten in independent form). This is appreciated. However, it is believed that all the independent claims are now allowable, with the amendments presented herein.

If any issues remain, or if the Examiner believes that prosecution of this application might be expedited by discussion of the issues, the Examiner is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned attorney for Applicant at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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